DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 072 336 AC 014 177

TITLE	Director-General's Report on the Third International Conference on Adult Education.
INSTITUTION	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Paris (France).
REPORT NO	UNESCO-17C-62
PUB DATE	16 Oct 72
NOTE	13p.; UNESCO General Conference, Seventeenth session, Paris 1972; Translated from the French
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	*Adult Education; Adult Educators; *Conference Reports; *Continuous Learning; Cooperative Planning; Cultural Enrichment; Developing Nations; Disadvantaged Groups; Economic Development; Educational Administration; Educational Finance; Educational Methods; Educational Opportunities; *Educational Planning; Educational Technology; Educational Trends; Equal Education; *International Organizations; Literacy Education; Mass Media; Social Change; Teacher Education
IDENTIFIERS	*UNESCO

ABSTRACT

The Third International Conference on Adult Education in the context of live-long education was held in Tokyo from July 25 to August 7, 1972. Those attending the Conference examined the following topics: main trends in adult education during the last ten years; adult education as a factor in the democratization of education and in economic, social and cultural development - its role and place in integrated educational systems within the context of life long education; policies for the development of adult education: planning, administration and financing; new methods and techniques; utilization of the major communication media; mobilization and training of personnel required for the expansion of adult education through international co-operation. This document, which contains the recommendations made by the Conference, describes the broad lines and the results of its work and indicates to what extent and by what means these recommendations could be given effect in the Organization's medium- and short-term programs, if the General Conference so decides. (Author/KM)

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ED 072336

General Conference
Seventeenth session, Paris 1972

17 C

17 C/62
16 October 1972
Translated from the French

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Item 13.3 of the Provisional Agenda

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADULT EDUCATION

SUMMARY

In accordance with resolution 1.31, paragraph (a), adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session, the Third International Conference on Adult Education in the context of life-long education was held in Tokyo from 25 July to 7 August 1972. Those attending the Conference examined the following topics: main trends in adult education during the last ten years; adult education as a factor in the democratization of education and in economic, social and cultural development - its rôle and place in integrated educational systems within the context of life-long education; policies for the development of adult education: planning, administration and financing; new methods and techniques; utilization of the major communication media; mobilization and training of personnel required for the expansion of adult education through international co-operation.

This document, which contains the recommendations made by the Conference, describes the broad lines and the results of its work and indicates to what extent and by what means these recommendations could be given effect in the Organization's medium- and short-term programmes, if the General Conference so decides.

The complete text of the Final Report of the Conference is available to the delegations attending the General Conference.

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1. The Third International Conference on Adult Education was held in Tokyo from 25 July to 7 August 1972 thanks to the generous hospitality of the Government of Japan. It was attended by 302 delegates representing 82 Member States, 63 representatives and observers from 3 Non-Member States, four organizations of the United Nations system, one intergovernmental organization and 37 international non-governmental organizations.

2. This Conference was a sequel to the Second World Conference on Adult Education, held in Montreal (Canada) in 1960, the First International Conference having been held at Elsinore (Denmark) in 1949.

3. The Conference dealt with the highly complex trends in adult education which have become apparent over the last ten years, the immediate tasks confronting it and its place and rôle in integrated life-long education systems.

4. The number of problems dealt with was very large, the situation varied from country to country, and there were differences in ideological and practical approach, but, despite all this, agreement on the most important ideas and issues was reached in the discussions - an undeniable encouragement for the continuation and development of international co-operation in this field, which ought to be considerably expanded.

5. The Conference showed how much ideas had advanced over the past ten years, with the notion of life-long education as a starting-point. In accordance with this principle, the Conference was able to determine the bases on which policies, plans and programmes should be established and to outline possible solutions to the major problems of education as a whole and adult education in particular.

6. First and foremost, the Conference reaffirmed that adult education should be an integral part of an all-embracing, continuous educational programme, of which it is a sub-system just as the schools are; It should consequently be given greater resources, both human and financial. Besides this, schools and school-teachers should, in their own interests, be more closely associated with adult education activities, and universities should play a greater part in this field.

7. The Conference particularly stressed the need to broaden access to adult education, particularly for underprivileged groups and categories, in the forefront of whom are illiterate town-dwellers and, above all, illiterate people in rural areas.

8. The Conference also emphasized that adults should be encouraged to participate in defining the aims of their own studies as well as in organizing and conducting them, and that a relationship of association and mutual instruction should be established between teachers and taught.

9. Divergent views were expressed about what is conventionally known as functional education and, particularly, functional literacy, some delegates fearing that a restrictive and strictly economic interpretation would be placed on the term "functionality". The Conference was reminded, however, that, in accordance with its humanistic purpose, Unesco takes the idea of functionality

in its widest sense, bearing in mind the relationship between education and society's needs and also that between education and the motivations and aspirations of the individual.

10. Observing that the strength of adult education lies in its diversity of content, form and executing agency as well as in its adaptability to the needs of a particular situation and socio-economic context, the Conference expressed the view that the important part played by non-governmental bodies in this connexion should be recognized, although the activities carried on by the various institutions should be co-ordinated.

11. The Conference also stressed two points - the interdependence of adult education and cultural development, and the need to make better use of the mass media; it was probably in relation to these points that the Conference developed most fully ideas already put forward in the past.

12. Lastly, showing an awareness of one of the great concerns of our times, the Conference recognized that the study of environmental problems should in future be one of the objectives of adult education.

13. Two of the principal steps which the Conference thought should be taken by governments are of a world-wide nature. Firstly, the priority which the Conference recommends should be given to adult education will not become a reality unless it is recognized that this form of education must be integrated into the overall planning of education, which itself is part of the general planning of economic and social development. Secondly, adult education will not be fully effective unless suitable institutions are established, grouped together into flexible and co-ordinated systems.

14. In making its recommendations, the Conference considered that Unesco should be entrusted with important tasks of four different kinds:

(i) The Organization should be the centre of a world system of documentation, analysis and the dissemination of information on significant achievements in adult education.

(ii) It should continue to promote the ideas and research required for the renewal of adult education.

(iii) Within the context of operational assistance to Member States, Unesco should strive to provide assistance of a high standard, principally with a view to the preparation of policies, plans and programmes for the expansion of adult education and for the training of qualified staff.

(iv) Lastly, Unesco should give the international community more frequent opportunities to concert its efforts.

15. The twenty-seven recommendations made by the Conference to Unesco are analysed below in the light of these considerations.

II

16. The following recommendations are in line with the action or certain activities proposed in draft documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5:

Recommendation 2 - The aims of adult education

This Recommendation defines the principal courses of action which the Conference would like to see adopted both by Member States and by Unesco. All Unesco's adult education activities, more especially those mentioned in paragraph 1312 of document 17 C/5, will be carried out with a view to attaining the objectives so defined.

Recommendation 6 - Measures to promote the education of workers

This Recommendation primarily concerns Member States. An increase of aid provided by Unesco in this field to the most under-privileged groups is provided for in section 1.14 of documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 (Equality of Access to Education). Increased aid may also be provided when the activities mentioned in paragraphs 1312, 1315 and 1316 of document 17 C/5 are being carried out (see also the comments on Recommendations 2, 4 and 31).

Recommendation 8 - Recognition of adult education as an essential sector of the educational system and strengthening Unesco's action in this field.

This Recommendation deals with the problem of promoting the idea of lifelong education and, as a consequence, with strengthening the Organization's adult education activities. These highly important aims are the subject of the general conclusions set forth in this report. They are covered by the provisions of draft documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 and by the proposals made in this document, which complement them and aim to increase the opportunities for education available to adults and also to improve - and therefore renew - adult education as regards administration, finance, content, means and methods. The achievement of these aims and the execution of the relevant activities will concern not only one particular unit of the Secretariat, but all the competent services, including the regional centres and offices for education, IBE, the International Institute for Educational Planning and the Hamburg Institute. At the beginning of the next biennium the International Advisory Committee for Out-of-School Education will state what measures it considers appropriate for the effective implementation of the projects provided for in the programme (cf. document 17 C/5, paragraph 1307).

Recommendation 10 - Greater priority to adult education in the programme of Unesco and in international aid.

The first two provisions of this Recommendation are similar to those in Recommendations 4 and 8.

In the case of the third provision, the Secretariat will continue to encourage agencies concerned with bilateral and multilateral financing to give a higher degree of priority to national adult education programmes.

These efforts, however, may have very little effect if the competent authorities in the Member States do not themselves urge upon these agencies the national needs in this matter and stress the fact that investments in adult education give an immediate return.

Recommendation 11 - Education for cultural fulfilment

Due account will be taken, in carrying out the adult education programme, of the pertinent recommendations adopted by the intergovernmental conferences on cultural policy held in Venice and Helsinki. Certain measures (to encourage better use of establishments such as museums, libraries, etc., in adult education) are in any case already provided for in paragraph 1249 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1312 of document 17 C/5. The cultural development programme as it appears in section 3.32 of draft documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 also includes a certain number of measures concerning the training of cultural activities organizers. The subject of the relationship between cultural development and life-long education will also be discussed at the intergovernmental conferences on cultural policy which will continue to be organized at regional level.

Recommendation 12 - Parent education

Parent education is one of the priorities in the assistance afforded to the activities of Member States and non-governmental organizations which are provided for in paragraph 1312 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 13 - Exchanges of experience related to new integrated education systems.

This Recommendation is covered by the provisions of paragraphs 1057, 1058, 1059, 1239 and 1240 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1057, 1508, 1062 and 1308 of document 17 C/5, and also by paragraphs 1244 and 1246 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1311, 1360-1369 and 3067-3068 of document 17 C/5. It should be noted that in drawing up educational strategies and plans the Department of Planning and Financing of Education now takes a broad view of the situation including both formal education and out-of-school activities.

Recommendation 14 - The gathering and processing of data

The action suggested to Unesco by the first two provisions of this Recommendation can be undertaken within the framework of the research activities provided for in paragraph 1240 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1308 of document 17 C/5.

As regards the gathering and treatment of statistical information, the Office of Statistics is preparing a guidebook for the collection of data on formal adult education in Member States. This guidebook will have to be tried out in a number of countries, however, before a permanent and world-wide data collection system can be established.

In subsequent biennia the system for collecting statistics will be extended to the non-formal education of adults.

Recommendation 15 - Regional seminars on the planning, financing and administration of adult education; encouragement of comparative studies.

The first provision of this Recommendation is covered by paragraph 1251 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1315 of document 17 C/5. The Regional Offices for Education will be invited to take part in activities of this kind (see document 17 C/5, paragraph 1073). The second provision is covered by paragraph 1240 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1308 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 16 - International action against illiteracy

The various provisions of this Recommendation are covered as follows:

Provision 1:	by paragraphs	1251, 1262, 1268 and 1269	of	document	17 C/4
	"	1315 and 1349-1355	"	"	17 C/5
Provisions 2 and 3	"	1240 and 1266	"	"	17 C/4
	"	1308, 1340, 1342 and 1343	"	"	17 C/5
Provision 5	"	4017	"	"	17 C/4
	"	4028	"	"	17 C/5

Literacy instruction in local languages (provision 4) is a principle which has become more or less a regular part of Unesco's activities, and will continue to be developed, as provided for in paragraph 1267 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1345 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 17 - Regional institutes for literacy and adult education

The new direction which, the Conference thought, should be given to the activities of ASFEC, CREFAL and the Teheran Institute should be mentioned in documents 17 C/4 (paragraphs 1269 and 1272) and 17 C/5 (paragraphs 1346 and 1352).

Negotiations with UNDP about its financial support to the two regional centres were begun well before the Tokyo Conference, and are continuing. However, their success will largely depend on the support given to Unesco's efforts by the governments of the Member States in the regions concerned. The possibility of establishing a new literacy centre in Africa has already been examined. With a view to finding an effective and flexible solution, it is proposed that the Regional Office for Education in Dakar should form a mobile team of literacy specialists as from 1975 (cf. document 17 C/4, paragraph 1269).

Recommendation 18 - Polyvalent adult education centres

This Recommendation covers the activities proposed in paragraph 1248 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1313-1314 of document 17 C/5. UNDP resources will also be available to Member States wishing to establish polyvalent adult education institutions, within the framework of Country Programming.

Recommendation 20 - Research on impediments to the dissemination and use of audio-visual materials

The activities provided for in paragraphs 4022-4024 of document 17 C/5 fully cover the objectives of this Recommendation.

Recommendation 22 - Study of new techniques for the education of nomadic populations.

The education of adult nomad populations is not expressly provided for in Unesco's Programme, although activities of this kind are planned for two countries (Sudan, Niger), as part of the literacy programme. Research into the use of modern techniques for the education of nomadic populations could be undertaken in co-operation with the national bodies concerned, under the Participation Programme (cf. document 17 C/5, paragraph 4093).

Recommendation 23 - International norms for educational equipment.

Unesco's programme provides for efforts to be made to improve standardization in the production and use of materials (cf. document 17 C/4, paragraph 1147 and 17 C/5, paragraph 1217), including the unification and co-ordination of the development and use of new materials in the various organizations of the United Nations system. The question of establishing international standards appears to be a complex one, however, in view of the industrial interests at stake and the restricted size of the educational market. However, National Commissions and non-governmental organizations concerned could be consulted on the matter.

The second provision of this Recommendation is covered by paragraphs 1136, 1149 and 1250 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1215, 1219 and 1220 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 24 - Promotion of books and other printed materials.

In paragraphs 4085-4091 and 4129 of Unesco's Draft Programme for 1973-1974 (document 17 C/5), various activities for the promotion of books are planned for the developing countries, both for such countries in general and for the various regions. The activities planned correspond very closely with the proposals of this Recommendation.

Recommendation 25 - The relationship between institutionalized adult education and informal adult learning with special reference to the use of mass media for educational purposes.

The relationship between institutionalized and informal adult education, and more especially the education provided by modern information media, is one of the priority themes of the action proposed in paragraph 1312 of document 17 C/5. An international meeting on this subject may be organized, if requested, either under the Participation Programme or under the programme of co-operation with non-governmental organizations.

The activities planned in paragraphs 4071, 4072, 4075 and 4076 of document 17 C/5 also cover the points mentioned in this Recommendation.

Recommendation 26 - The transfer of educational technology to developing countries

The activities mentioned in paragraph 1139 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1211 of document 17 C/5 are concerned with the problem of transferring educational techniques and adapting them to the technical, economic and

cultural circumstances of the developing countries. In carrying out these activities, the special problems involved in using these techniques for adult education will be borne in mind.

Recommendation 27 - Methods and techniques, research, development and experimentation.

The research and experimental activity proposed by this Recommendation will receive Unesco's support under the provisions of paragraphs 1240 and 1245 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1308 and 1312 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 28 - The rôle of universities in adult education

This Recommendation invites Member States to encourage universities to play a greater part in the training of specialists, in research into adult education and in the implementation of adult education projects, and to co-operate more fully with existing adult education institutions. Unesco is requested to bring its efforts to bear on the latter point. The Organization already makes every effort to encourage higher education establishments to participate in adult education within the framework of its adult education, literacy, and higher education programmes. It will continue to do this, developing its action in the spirit of this Recommendation, as provided for particularly in paragraphs 1240, 1252, 1261, 1268, 1332 and 1333 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1308, 1315, 1340, 1342, 1350 and 1432 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 29 - Training adult education personnel.

The measures which this Recommendation proposes that Unesco should undertake are covered:

(a) in the case of training programmes, by paragraphs 1251 and 1252 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 1315 of document 17 C/5 (see also the comments on Recommendation 28);

(b) in the case of the promotion of sociological and psychological research, by paragraphs 1240 and 1261 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1308 and 1341 of document 17 C/5.

Recommendation 31 - Mobilization of the educational resources of the community for adult education

This is a statement of principles (recruitment of adult educators from the environment in which they will have to teach; participation of young people in their community's educational activities) the application of which, the Conference felt, ought to be encouraged by Unesco particularly at the level of training. Measures of this kind are provided for in the literacy programme (cf. document 17 C/4, paragraphs 1262 and 1268 and document 17 C/5, paragraphs 1349 and 1351). Section 1.24 of documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 (Adult Education) deals more particularly with the provision of refresher courses for those already engaged in adult education and with the training of top-level specialists who could in their turn, and on a scale much greater than Unesco could plan for, undertake the training of teachers for basic education.

Recommendation 32 - International co-operation in the training of adult education personnel

The activities mentioned in paragraphs 1251, 1252-1269 and 1318 of document 17 C/4 and paragraphs 1315, 1352-1353 and 1410 of document 17 C/5 deal with the training of full-time adult education specialists. Care will be taken to see that the non-governmental organizations concerned are associated with these activities. In addition, special arrangements could be made, at the request of the Member States concerned, to strengthen those aspects of the operational projects for training educational staff carried out by the Organization which are related to adult education.

The establishment of permanent training institutes at regional level is a costly step which Unesco does not appear to be able to undertake at present. Efforts will consequently be made to strengthen the training activities of the Regional Offices for Education (see comments relating to Recommendation 15).

17. Modifications would have to be made in draft documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 before the following Recommendations could be taken into consideration:

Recommendation 4 - Learning opportunities for the underprivileged

In this recommendation an important line of action is proposed as part of the Organization's activities and one which has been amply represented in the past in Unesco's programmes for equality of access to education, literacy, education for rural development, etc. This principle ought nevertheless to be emphasized still more by inserting it in the text of resolution 1.24 of document 17 C/5 (see the draft resolution at the end of this document).

Recommendation 7 - Preparation of an international recommendation on adult education

In accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations and International Conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Constitution, it is proposed to prepare a preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of the preparation of an international instrument concerning the development of adult education and to submit this study to the Executive Board at its session to be held in the first half of 1974. The work plans for Section 1.24 in draft documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5 will consequently have to be modified, as well as those in sub-chapter 5.1 of documents 17 C/4 and 17 C/5.

Recommendation 30 - Institutional measures for the development of international co-operation in adult education

Action taken by Member States to give effect to this Recommendation could receive support from Unesco under the Participation Programme (document 17 C/5, paragraph 1312) and also under paragraphs 3167-3168 of document 17 C/4 and paragraph 3219 of document 17 C/5.

In addition, instead of updating the special studies undertaken as part of the preparations for the Third International Conference on Adult Education (document 17 C/5, paragraph 1310), it is proposed to continue publishing the information bulletin launched in 1972, so as to facilitate the circulation of succinct information concerning the professional problems of adult education.

Recommendation 33 - Adult education as a subject in international conferences on education

The view that there should be more opportunities for consultation about adult educational problems is a legitimate one. However, it will probably be a matter of seeing that topics concerning the specific problems of adult education are placed on the agenda of regional conferences of Ministers of education and on the agenda of the International Conferences on Education organized by IBE, rather than of calling world conferences to deal with all the problems of adult education.

Besides this, it would seem that document 17 C/4 should be modified so as to provide for regional meetings to be convened during the 1975-1976 and 1977-1978 biennia, at the rate of one conference per biennium, on themes relating to adult education.

III

18. Conscious of the international community's growing needs in the matter of adult education, the Conference decided to entrust Unesco with important tasks, as is demonstrated by the discussions which took place in Tokyo and the Recommendations analysed above. Certain conditions are needed if these tasks are to be successfully carried out.

19. If we are to do justice to all the richness and complexity of the concept of adult education, it will probably be necessary in future to draw up the Programme in a less analytical way and to reorganize the Secretariat so that it reflects the overall approach which the profound interpenetration of problems renders advisable and which is desired both by the Member States and by the non-governmental organizations concerned.

20. Secondly, the necessary means will have to be found within the Organization's budget. As regards the 1973-1974 biennium, the adjustments needed will be made within the limits of the Director-General's powers.

21. Finally, if adult education is to have the means necessary to carry out its policy and if Unesco is to be able to fulfil the tasks which no other body is apparently able to accomplish, a real increase in future resources will be essential. These resources will not necessarily have to be found within the Organization's Regular budget alone. Provided that Member States effectively support Unesco's activities when applying to the UNDP authorities other funds could be made available in the course of Country Programming. Other sums as well, which in certain cases could be more easily administered, might be added to these from Funds-in-Trust.

22. After examination of this document, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following resolution:

ERIC Clearinghouse
MAR 7 1973
on Adult Education

"The General Conference,

Having examined the Director-General's report on the Third International Conference on Adult Education (document 17 C/62),

Approves the lines of action suggested and the conclusions reached in this report and, in particular, the modifications to the Draft Medium-Term Outline Plan for 1973-1978 (document 17 C/4) and to the Draft Programme and Budget for 1973-1974 (document 17 C/5) as proposed in paragraph 17 of document 17 C/62;

Decides to modify the wording of paragraph (c) of draft resolution 1.24 in document 17 C/5 by inserting after the words "the needs of contemporary societies" the words "first and foremost the needs of underprivileged groups ...".

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General Conference 17 C
Seventeenth session, Paris 1972

17 C/62 Corr.1
20 October 1972
Original: English

Item 13.3 of the Agenda

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADULT EDUCATION

CORRIGENDUM

Document 17 C/62 should have included a complete set of the recommendations made at the Third International Conference on Adult Education. For technical reasons, however, those recommendations were not attached. The Final Report of this Conference (ED/MD/25), which includes a complete set of those recommendations (essential to an understanding of 17 C/62), will be distributed on about 27 October.

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General Conference
Seventeenth session, Paris 1972

17 C

17 C/62. Corr. 2
19 October 1972
English version only

Item 13.3 of the Agenda

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADULT EDUCATION

CORRIGENDUM 2

Delete paragraph 22.